

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06597 282156Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 282130Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5594

INFO USUN 502

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

S E C R E T PANAMA 6597

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, PN

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 30TH UNGA: PANAMANIAN POSITION

REF: A) USUN 5353 B) STATE 254894 C) PANAMA 6576

1. HAVE JUST COMPLETED LONG TALK WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS AND WILL REPORT FULLY SEPTEL. BUT HEART OF THE MATTER IS THAT HE HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MOVE AWAY FROM DECISION TO HAVE PANAMA'S DELEGATION ABSENT ITSELF DURING VOTES ON KOREAN RELOLUTIONS. I UNDERLINED STRONGLY THAT PANAMA WOULD NOT BE ALONE IN LATIN AMERICA IN SUPPORTING US ON THIS ISSUE, NOTING ESPECIALLY THAT COSTA RICA (WITH WHOM HE HAS CLOSE TIES) IS COSPONSOR OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.

2. TORRIJOS WILL BE TRAVELLING TO VENEZUELA TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOR PRIVATE TALK WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ. HE TOLD ME THAT IF HE COULD AS RESULT OF THAT VISIT SAY THAT VENEZUELA HAD ASKED HIM TO VOTE WITH IT ON THIS ISSUE HE WOULD INSTRUCT HIS DELEGATION TO UN TO SUPPORT FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND VOTE AGAINST UNFRIENDLY. CLEARLY HE WANTS TO PROTECT HIS FLANKS BY UNDERLINING THAT AS MANY LATIN COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE (ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH WHAT HE CALLED QUOTE DIGNITY UNQUOTE) WERE TAKING THIS STAND AND PANAMA WAS GOING ALONG WITH NEIGHBORS.

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3. NOTING THAT VENEZUELA MAY BE LUKEWARM ON THE KOREAN MATTER, STRONGLY SUGGEST WE MAKE EFFORT CONTACT PEREZ BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH TORRIJOS TO REQUEST HIS COOPERATION IN URGING PANAMA TO JOIN FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS IN KOREAN VOTES. USUN MAY CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO MAKE SIMILAR PITCH THRU VENEZUELAN DELEGATION THERE. BUT I AM INCLINED TO THINK THAT DIRECT APPROACH IN CARACAS IS WISEST COURSE. NEEDLESS TO SAY TORRIJOS ASKED ME TO KEEP THIS GENERAL APPROACH STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND I WONDER IF THAT IS POSSIBLE IN UN RUMOR MILL.

4. TORRIJOS ALSO SAID, EARLIER IN CONVERSATION, THAT HE WOULD HAVE AMBASSADOR BOYD ASK FOR PRIVATE SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN TO DISCUSS STRATEGY. BUT THIS WAS IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION CONCERNING HOW PANAMA COULD BEST PROTECT ITSELF ON KOREAN ISSUE WITHOUT ALIENATING US. HE WILL PROBABLY STILL ASK FOR APPOINTMENT WHATEVER OUTCOME OF FOREGOING EFFORT.
JORDEN

SECRET

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